

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A process for the production of water-soluble or water-swella-  
ble cationic polymers by

(i) free-radically initiated copolymerization of monomer mixtures in water  
comprising

(a) from 1 to 99% by weight of a cationic monomer or quaternizable  
monomer,

(b) from 1 to 99% by weight of a water-soluble monomer,

(c) from 0 to 10% by weight of a bi- or polyfunctional, free-radically  
copolymerizable monomer, adjusting the amounts (a) to (c) in such a way that the  
resulting polymer has an overall positive charge,

in the presence of 1 to 100% of the amount of a salt which is necessary to saturate the  
reaction medium with said salt and

in the presence of 0,1 to 20 % by weight referred to the weight of the dispersion, of an  
amphoteric dispersant having an overall negative charge, and

(ii) subsequent quaternization of the polymer if the monomer

(a) employed is a non-quaternized monomer.

Claim 2 (Original): A process according to claim 1, where the amphoteric dispersant  
is a copolymer of at least partly hydrolyzed vinylformamide units and acrylate units.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A process according to claim 1, where the amphoteric  
dispersant is a copolymer of ~~dimethylaminoethylmethacrylamid~~ dimethylaminoethylmetha-  
crylamide units and acrylate units.

Claim 4 (Original): A dispersion comprising water-soluble or water-swellaable cationic polymers obtained by a process according to claim 1.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (New): A method for treating water comprising adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 4 to water.

Claim 7 (New): A method for dewatering comprising adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 4 to a dewatering process.

Claim 8 (New): A method for clarifying water comprising adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 4 to a water clarification system.

Claim 9 (New): A method for making paper comprising adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 4 to a papermaking process.

Claim 10 (New): A method for producing oil comprising adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 4 to an oil field and an oil field operation.

Claim 11 (New): A method for conditioning soil comprising adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 4 to soil.

Claim 12 (New): A method for processing minerals comprising adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 4 to a mineral processing system.

Claim 13 (New): A method for producing a hair or skin cosmetic comprising adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 4 to a hair or skin cosmetic formulation.

Claim 14 (New): A hair or skin cosmetic comprising the hair or skin cosmetic formulation produced by the method as claimed in claim 13.

Claim 15 (New): A biotechnological method comprising utilizing the dispersion as claimed in claim 4 in a biotechnological application.